

## Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3299

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 16099

EXDIS

FOR EAGLEBURGER FROM AMBASSADOR HILLENBRAND

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SREF, GW

SUBJECT: RESETTLEMENT OF INDOCHINESE REFUGEES IN THE  
FRG

REF: BONN 14987

BEGIN SUMMARY. IF WE ARE TO OBTAIN RESETTLEMENT OF APPRECIABLE NUMBERS OF INDOCHINESE REFUGEES IN THE FRG IT APPEARS AS IF WE NEED A DIRECT APPEAL FROM THE PRESIDENT OR THE SECRETARY TO CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT, POSSIBLY DURING SCHMIDT'S OCTOBER 3 VISIT TO WASHINGTON. END SUMMARY.

1. THE FONOFF HAS NOW TOLD US THAT MY APPROACH TO MINISTER OF STATE MOERSCH ON SEPTEMBER 11 WAS BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE LAENDER, BUT THAT A REPLY TO MY APPROACH WOULD NOT BE READY UNTIL NEAR THE END OF OCTOBER. THE OFFICIALS WITH WHOM WE HAVE BEEN IN TOUCH PREDICT THAT THE RESULT OF OUR EFFORTS TO DATE WILL BE A SPEEDING UP IN THE PROCESSING OF APPLICATIONS OF INDIVIDUAL REFUGEES, BUT THEY ARE NOT OPTIMISTIC THAT THE FRG WILL REACT FAVORABLY TO OUR REQUEST THAT THE FRG ACCEPT SEVERAL THOUSAND REFUGEES FROM THOSE WHO ARE PRESENTLY LOCATED IN EAST ASIA.

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2. IN A CONVERSATION TODAY WITH THE ICEM REP IN BONN

(BAKKERS) WE LEARNED THAT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT ITSELF SET A QUOTA OF 1000 REFUGEES FROM UGANDA IN RESPONSE TO A DIRECT APPEAL FROM UK PRIME MINISTER WILSON TO THE CHANCELLOR. THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT ALSO ESTABLISHED A QUOTA OF 1,200 REFUGEES FROM CHILE IN RESPONSE TO A DIRECT APPEAL FROM THE UNHCR TO THE CHANCELLOR. THIS QUOTA WAS LATER EXPANDED TO 1,500. IN EACH CASE THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT ALLOTTED A SPECIFIC PORTION OF THE QUOTA TO EACH LAND.

3. IN THE CASE OF THE INDOCHINESE REFUGEES, IN CONTRAST, THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAS MERELY ESTABLISHED CRITERIA--WHICH ARE STRICT--AND HAS LEFT ALL DECISIONS UP TO THE LAENDER. THIS PROCESS HAS RESULTED IN NOT ONLY SLOW PROCESSING, BUT APPLICATION OF DIFFERING AND CONFUSING STANDARDS TO INDIVIDUAL APPLICATIONS. IT IS MY JUDGMENT THAT THIS PROCESS WILL NOT RESULT IN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A QUOTA, AS WAS DONE IN THE CASE OF CHILE AND UGANDA.

4. UNTIL NOW, I HAD FELT THAT THE REPRESENTATIONS THAT WE WERE MAKING HERE WOULD BE ADEQUATE TO ATTAIN OUR OBJECTIVES EVEN THOUGH THE PACE WAS NOT AS QUICK AS WE MIGHT HAVE WISHED. NOW, HOWEVER, I THINK WE NEED TO QO HIGHER.

5. IN VIEW OF THE SUCCESS THAT WILSON AND THE UNHCR HAD IN THE CASE OF UGANDA AND CHILE BY MAKING DIRECT APPEALS TO THE CHANCELLOR, I RECOMMEND THAT EITHER THE PRESIDENT OR THE SECRETARY DIRECT A PERSONAL APPEAL TO CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT ON BEHALF OF INDOCHINESE REFUGEES. IF OUR OTHER PRIORITIES ARE NOT HIGHER, I BELIEVE AN EXCELLENT TIME TO MAKE THE APPEAL WOULD BE DURING THE MEETINGS WITH SCHMIDT ON FRIDAY. IF IT IS DECIDED NOT TO MAKE SUCH AN APPEAL, PLEASE LET ME KNOW AND I WILL CONTINUE TO MUSTER A SERIOUS EFFORT HERE.

HILLENBRAND

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